



# The Wildlife Management Institute 68th North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference

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Winston Salem, North Carolina



## BIOSKETCH FOR THE 2003 NATIONAL 4-H WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES ADULT VOLUNTEER WINNERS

### MISSISSIPPI



**Charles Fitts**, of Pittsboro, Mississippi, works for Mississippi State's Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. He has been a 4-H Volunteer for 11 years.

Charles has been involved in the Mississippi 4-H Field and Stream program (4-H FS) since its inception. 4-H FS is

an umbrella program that includes shooting sports and wildlife and fisheries-related activities. Charles has provided the leadership and direction necessary to make 4-H Field and Stream the largest single 4-H program in Mississippi, and he is a significant reason for its success. He not only sponsors and promotes a club in his local community, he is also a level II instructor in both archery and reloading. As such, Charles is actively involved in recruiting and training level I instructors throughout the state, and consistently receives the highest ratings as an instructor in this role. In Mississippi, Charles has certified more than fifty instructors in archery. Aside from training archery instructors, many of the young people Charles has trained in the sport of archery have been selected to participate on the Mississippi National Archery Team. Furthermore, he develops, constructs, and operates the archery ranges in his district and state-level shooting matches every year. The group of people who nominated Charles for this award say, "Charles never says 'no,' and he is

continually willing to contribute time, expertise, and enthusiasm to the program. In short, Charles Fitts is the type of volunteer and person that every program hopes for."

The three Extension professionals who nominated Charles for this award could not say enough about him, but stressed he is the primary reason why the archery program in Mississippi is so successful, and why they expect it to grow in the future.

Some of Charles' other areas of interest in the area of natural resources include his membership in the Natchez Trace Gun Club, his membership in the Bruce Rotary Club, the National Association of Agricultural Agents (NACAA), and the Mississippi Association of County Agricultural Agents (MACAA). He is also the Communication Award Chairman for the State Association, and a member of the Executive Committee for State-Wide Field and Stream programs.

Other areas of 4-H work that Charles is involved in besides 4-H programs include his supervision of the State Pork Cooking Contest, and he serves on the Swine Committee of the Dixie National Round-Up. Charles is also the Registration Chairman for the Northeast District Horse Show, and he serves as the joint master of ceremonies for the county awards banquet.

In the future, Charles plans to continue to serve as a State Trainer and as a Range Officer, and also to conduct a State-Wide Archery Camp in the Spring of 2003.